

هذه امانه الاصل



Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز جريدة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرأي

Soviet troops to leave Hungary

BUDAPEST 20 — Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemes said Tuesday Soviet troops would leave Hungary by the end of the month. "In the shortest time," Nemes said, "we will have no Soviet troops in Hungary." He said the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary was a political and military decision, not a humanitarian one. "We agreed that the stationing of Soviet troops in the country was a political and military decision, not a humanitarian one," Nemes said. "We agreed that the stationing of Soviet troops in the country was a political and military decision, not a humanitarian one."

Egyptian police open fire in Assiut

CAIRO (B) — Egyptian police opened fire to disperse Muslim fundamentalist demonstrators in Assiut, a city of 300,000, Tuesday. Police fired tear gas and live ammunition at the demonstrators, who were protesting against the arrest of a local official. The police opened fire on the demonstrators, who were protesting against the arrest of a local official. The police opened fire on the demonstrators, who were protesting against the arrest of a local official.

Volume 15 Number 4296 AMMAN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1990, JUMADA AL THANI 27, 1410 Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Qasem urges U.S. to curb flow of funds to Israel

By Marwan M. Qasem
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Foreign Affairs Marwan Al Qasem has urged the United States to curtail the flow of funds to Israel, saying that such aid is a major obstacle to peace in the region. "The United States is the only country that can exert pressure on Israel to accept a just and equitable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict," Qasem said. "The United States is the only country that can exert pressure on Israel to accept a just and equitable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict."



Marwan Al Qasem

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Government lifts bans on travel, passports

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Tuesday adopted yet another measure towards securing and guaranteeing public freedoms by cancelling all bans imposed on travel abroad by citizens and instructing the Passport Department to renew passports and issue new ones without referring to the General Intelligence Department.

House panel slashes draft budget by JD 20m

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament's Financial Committee, which is currently reviewing the 1990 draft budget, has managed to reduce the total amount of envisaged expenditure for the year by JD 20 million, the committee's chairman said Tuesday.

King honours outgoing Soviet envoy

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has conferred upon the outgoing Soviet ambassador to Jordan, Alexander Zinbuck, the Lital Medal of the First Order.

Two Palestinians killed in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian was killed by Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Nablus as he fled after being ordered to halt in an arrest raid, the army said Tuesday.

Azeris put up stiff resistance

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Gunmen ambushed troop convoys, tankers and military vehicles, blowing up their ships and tanks, as resistance grew Tuesday to the presence of Soviet troops in Azerbaijan.



An Azerbaijani woman in despair tears her hair out in grief over the violence in the Soviet republic.

Assad, Hrawi set Aoun as priority

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Presidents Hafez Al Assad of Syria and Elias Hrawi of Lebanon said Tuesday they were prepared to use force to oust rebellious General Michel Aoun from Lebanon's presidential palace as soon as possible.

Maghreb states give more power to union

TUNIS (R) — Arab Maghreb leaders agreed Tuesday to give more power to the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) to coordinate regional policy and start practical work to set up a common market from the Atlantic to the Egyptian border.

Peres: Agreement on dialogue is near

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israeli Vice-Premier Shimon Peres said Tuesday agreement was very near on the first direct talks between Israel and Palestinians.

Kuwaiti police break up pro-democracy march

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Security men dispersed a crowd at a pro-democracy rally south of Kuwait City Monday night. An interior ministry spokesman said five people were arrested.

The spokesman said the five were detained "after trying to resist security men and prevent them from carrying out their duty."

The statement said one of the five wielded a knife and tried to attack policemen at the rally in Farnawaniya, 16 kilometres south of Kuwait City.

"At 7:00 p.m. (1600 GMT) a crowd gathered at Farnawaniya in an attempt to stage a rally in one of the diwaniyas of citizens without permission," the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) said.

"Despite several warnings by concerned authorities to participants to disperse, they went ahead with their plan, prompting security men to disperse them and deal with the situation," the state-run agency said.

The meeting was scheduled at the diwaniya, or open-house

salon, of former Member of Parliament Abbas Munawer to press ahead with demands for restoring parliamentary life.

Activists said security men used foam cannons to disperse the crowd. The area around Munawer's house was cordoned off.

The crowds defied an implicit call for an end to rallies from the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. He said in a televised address Saturday that he was ready to discuss popular participation in government after weekly demonstrations.

"We must remember that we are members of one small house that cannot bear divisions and discord... we live in times which require wisdom more than zeal and cooperation more than confrontation, conciliation more than threats," he said.

The National Assembly, for years the most vocal parliament in the Arab World, was dissolved at the height of the Iran-Iraq war in 1986 when the government said it was encouraging dissension.

Activists, including many former members of parliament, have held Monday night rallies to press for the reinstatement of parliament on the grounds that the war has been over since August 1988.

The speaker of the assembly, Ahmad Al Saadoun, told demonstrators that Monday's rally would be the last before a cooling off period to allow for talks with the government.

Earlier Saadoun told the crowd that pro-democracy leaders had requested a meeting with the emir.

The pro-democracy activists collected a petition calling for the reconvening of parliament and signed by 25,000 people but the emir has refused to receive the document.

However the emir's statement that he was in favour of parliamentary life as well as earlier comments by the crown prince in which he called for democracy have gone some way toward meeting the protesters' demands — short of actually reconvening parliament.

Israel conditionally offers to withdraw from Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday his country would leave South Lebanon if Syrian and Palestinian forces withdrew from the country.

"If the Syrians and the Palestinians pull out from Lebanon we will leave too. We have neither ambitions in Lebanon nor problems with the Lebanese border," Rabin said.

He was talking to reporters during a visit to Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, two days after resistance forces killed the highest-ranking Israeli officer in Lebanon since 1985.

"Israel will cooperate with anyone in Lebanon to pull out the foreign forces from the country and especially from Beirut," Rabin said.

Some 40,000 Syrian troops control up to 70 per cent of Lebanon's territory and thousands of Palestinian and Iranian fighters have military bases in the country.

About 800 Israeli troops and the 2,500-strong South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia patrol the "security zone" to prevent resistance attacks on Israel's northern border.

"We hope the Lebanese will be free again and unite against all the foreigners who want to influence Lebanon to achieve their own goals. It is time the Lebanese reach an understanding," Rabin said.

He said the killing Sunday of Colonel Yitzhak Rahimov, 40, in the border strip "will not do good but will disturb life in Lebanon."

The Fateh Revolutionary Council led by Abu Nidal said its fighters killed Rahimov in a clash near Yaroun village, one kilometre north of Israeli border.

An Israeli army spokesman said Monday the army shot dead three guerrillas hours after they killed Rahimov who served as a liaison officer to the SLA in the zone.

"Soviets leaving Syria"

Israel's armed forces chief of staff, Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron, has said the Soviet Union is gradually reducing the number of military advisers in Syria.

Both Syria and the Soviet embassy in Damascus denied Arab press reports last week that Moscow had withdrawn most of its estimated 2,500 advisers.

Shomron told an Israeli journalist: "There is no exodus of

Soviet advisers from Syria. The advisers are leaving bit-by-bit in accordance with a Soviet policy of reducing their forces in various parts of the world."

He said there were still more than 1,000 advisers in Syria.

Shomron made the remark during a major army exercise last week. He was quoted by the daily Hadashot last Thursday.

Military sources said the army played it down at the time because Rabin was visiting Washington and Israel did not want to say anything which could be seen as reducing the Syrian "threat."

Rabin insisted in statements in the United States that Soviet military support for Syria and supplies of advanced Soviet weaponry continued unabated, despite Kremlin calls for Damascus to abandon its goal of strategic parity with Israel.

He cited what he termed massive rearmament by Syria, Iraq and Libya as grounds for maintaining Washington's annual aid grant to the Jewish state at \$3 billion.

Republican Senator Bob Dole has proposed trimming the aid to make money available for emerging democracies in Eastern Europe.

Israel tells U.S. it is not selling cluster bombs to Addis Ababa

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has been assured that Israel is not selling cluster bombs to Ethiopia, the State Department said Monday.

The New York Times said Sunday U.S. administration officials suspected Israel of sending cluster bombs to Ethiopia and had unconfirmed reports that the government had already used them against rebels.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the administration had noted the report but could not confirm it.

"The truth is that we have no clear, physical evidence that Israel has provided such weapons to the government of Ethiopia," she said.

"We have raised the subject of weapon shipments to Ethiopia with Israel on repeated occasions including the visit last week of Defence Minister (Yitzhak) Rabin and we have been told Israel was not providing cluster bombs to Ethiopia and would not do so," she added.

But Tutwiler was unable to say whether Rabin's assurance also covered possible past shipments.

The report surfaced as Israel reopened its embassy in Ethiopia Monday, marking the formal resumption of diplomatic relations.

Reports have suggested that the government in Addis Ababa is interested in Israeli arms for its war with guerrillas in Tigre and Eritrea in exchange for allowing its small Jewish population to emigrate.

Israel clandestinely airlifted out about 15,000 Jewish Ethiopians, or Falashas, in 1984-85. About 10,000 are believed to remain in Ethiopia.

There have been repeated reports — denied by Israel — that Israel has already sent arms and advisers to Ethiopian government forces since relations were restored.

The United States stopped exporting cluster bombs, which spray chunks of metal around a large area, in 1982 after they were used against civilians in Israel's

invasion of Lebanon. The ban was lifted last year but no cluster bombs have been sent to Israel since then.

Israel may have built its own cluster bombs, military sources say.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said a month ago that "one of our Middle East allies" had provided cluster bombs to the Ethiopian air force.

Carter, who has been trying to mediate an end to a long civil war between the government in Addis Ababa and Eritrean rebels, did not identify Israel specifically.

Last week, without elaboration, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin voiced confidence that all those Jews remaining in Ethiopia would be allowed to go to Israel.

A cluster bomb, dropped from an airplane, explodes and releases scores of small bombs contained in the canister. It can have severe tactical and psychological effect because of the series of explosions that are set off.

THREE WISE MONKEYS: Israeli demonstrators outside the prime minister's office during a government meeting wearing the masks of the three wise monkeys. The reference to not speaking,

seeing or hearing is directed at the prime minister, the deputy prime minister and the defence minister.

Sharon says Palestinian elections will lead to separate state, war

TEL AVIV (R) — Hardline Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, in a challenge to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, warned Tuesday that Palestinian elections in occupied territories would lead to a separate state and war.

Sharon scored a threat by Shamir to resign if a Likud party committee rejected the premier's efforts, including a proposal for Palestinian elections, at a showdown meeting on Feb. 7.

"I regret the efforts to turn national issues into a personal matter," Sharon, a burly soldier-turned-politician, told Israeli radio reporters.

"Now we certainly have a first-rate opportunity for the government to review its path and to try to abandon this elections proposal that would in fact bring about a Palestinian state, bloodshed and

war," he said.

Sharon and fellow Likud Hawks contend that an independent state, sought by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), would be the first step in a bid to wipe out Israel.

Sharon said the time was ripe to drop the elections proposal as the United States had hinted it was concerned with other matters and was losing patience with the Middle East.

Shamir, 74, threatened Monday to resign if he failed to win support from the Likud central committee. Sharon, the committee's 61-year-old chairman, and Likud ministers David Levy and Yitzhak Mordechai lead the party opposition.

"It is very clear that if the Likud central committee won't support me, I cannot remain

leader of the Likud or the prime minister," Shamir, who heads a coalition government with the Labour Party, told reporters Monday.

Sharon, forced out as defence minister in 1983 over his handling of an Israeli invasion of Lebanon the previous year, said, "We must have a free discussion without ultimatums and intimidation."

The elections proposal, approved by the cabinet in May, would let the 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip choose negotiators to talks with Israel.

"It is still being present as an Arab concession to Israel but it is the greatest concession of Israel to the Arabs without anything in return," Sharon said.

Khartoum's stand on relief may cause exodus to rebel areas

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

KHARTOUM — Western aid agencies, saying Sudan's ruling junta is delaying vital food shipments to the war-torn south, plan to sidestep the military government and launch a major relief operation in rebel-held areas.

Foreign relief officials said Tuesday the operation could cause an exodus of starving people to regions controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and would boost the rebels' status locally and internationally.

"The government does not seem to realise that it is the one which stands to lose by delaying Operation Lifeline Sudan," said the head of one major relief organisation in Khartoum.

The second phase of Operation Lifeline Sudan, led by the United Nations and estimated to cost \$200 million, was due to start Jan. 1. Relief workers and diplomats have said tens of thousands could starve because the junta's preconditions are delaying the start.

Western relief agencies based in Kenya are already finalising plans for a substantial effort in SPLA-held areas, relief workers said.

They said the programme, to be partly funded by the European Community and the U.S. Agency for International Development, would be carried out by charities not represented in Khartoum, making the junta's attitude irrelevant.

At least two of the charities were thrown out of northern Sudan in 1987 on security grounds.

The only United Nations agency with a government mandate to work in SPLA-held areas, from neighbouring Ethiopia, is the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The relief officials said the junta's delay of Operation Lifeline was beginning to damage its image abroad, already tarnished by alleged human rights violations and its complicity last June which ousted an elected civilian government.

The government insists that only basic relief

supplies be sent to rebel-held areas and that plans to improve the administrative and education system there be cancelled.

Relief workers say this is impossible because lifeline is committed to treat government and rebel-held areas equally.

The government also wants all references to the SPLA in documents on the operation replaced by the word "rebels."

The aid workers said it was already too late in most of the south to distribute seeds for the planting of the main staples, sorghum and maize. As a result most southerners would depend totally on handouts this year.

Relief workers and diplomats have said up to 100,000 people were expected to leave the Bahr Al Ghazal region in search for food by the end of January or early February.

The officials said small groups of starving people from northern Bahr Al Ghazal were beginning to arrive in Khartoum.

But voluntary agencies in Khartoum towns, where southerners flocked during the great famine of 1988, had either left or lacked supplies and personnel to handle a sizeable influx.

The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 in the south, a vast and underpopulated region, against what it sees as domination by the north.

Khartoum has played down a string of defeats this month at the hands of the SPLA. On Sunday and Monday rebels shelled the southern regional capital Juba for the first time in a year.

Relief workers said southerners living in army garrison towns were expected to be the first to suffer from the delay of the U.N. programme. They said the junta was pressing donor countries to finance an aid airlift to Juba.

The first stage of Operation Lifeline Sudan ended last October. It shipped more than 100,000 tonnes of supplies to the south and helped prevent a rerun of the 1988 tragedy, when a quarter of a million southerners died of hunger or disease.

Saleh, Bush to discuss Yemeni unity, ties

SANAA (AP) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh left for Washington Tuesday for the first visit to the United States by a North Yemeni leader and is expected to bring up allegations that Israel has set up a new military base in the Red Sea.

Saleh, who arrives in Washington Wednesday, is scheduled to meet U.S. President George Bush later this week.

Saleh is also to brief Bush about steps for unity with South Yemen.

Arab diplomatic sources, speaking on conditions of anonymity, said Saleh was expected to press Bush to restore diplomatic relations with South Yemen, which Washington broke off in 1969.

South Yemen is one of six countries under U.S. economic boycott for their alleged support of international terrorism. The others are Libya, Cuba, North Korea, Syria and Iran.

The sources said Washington was not expected to restore relations with South Yemen until it is proven that South Yemen no longer helps destabilise neigh-

bouring countries or supports "terrorists."

North Yemen has had diplomatic ties with the United States since 1946.

The South, which was a British protectorate until it gained independence in 1967, broke off ties with the United States after aligning itself with Moscow.

South Yemen, strategically placed at the tip of Arabian Peninsula, also provides a major naval base for the Soviets in the Indian Ocean.

Saleh is also to discuss with

Bush what diplomats described as the growing cooperation between Israel and Ethiopia.

Arab newspapers and some Arab politicians have reported that Israel is leasing from Ethiopia an island in the strategic Bab Al Mandab Strait. The reports have not been confirmed.

North Yemen, along with South Yemen, host units of Palestinian fighters who pulled out of Lebanon during Israel's 1982 invasion. They are based in camps outside South Yemen's main cities.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi minister visits France

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi left for Paris Tuesday for an official visit, the Iraqi News Agency reported. It said Hammadi, who is in charge of economic affairs at the Iraqi cabinet, will have talks with French officials on boosting cooperation between the two countries. France was Iraq's main arms supplier in the eight-year Gulf war with Iran. Hostilities ended with a U.N.-brokered ceasefire in August, 1988.

UAE bans smoking in health centres

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has banned smoking in its more than 200 government hospitals and medical centres. It is also considering banning smoking among 45,000 employees in all government offices. A recent survey found 30 per cent of them were smokers.

Crew evacuated from burning tanker

BAHRAIN (R) — A rescue ship has evacuated most of the crew from a Japanese tanker on fire in the Arabian Sea, Gulf shipping sources said Tuesday. They said a passing ship had taken off most of the crew from the Japanese liquefied petroleum gas carrier Sun River after its engine room caught fire Monday. "The vessel has been evacuated but it is not known whether the fire is under control or not," one source said. The 25,873-tonne tanker, sailing in ballast for the Saudi port of Ras Tanura, sent a distress signal from a position 370 miles off the Oman coast, the sources said. A vessel owned by the same company — Japan's Kawasaki Kisen K.K. — sailed to the burning tanker and apparently removed most of its crew, leaving some behind to fight the fire, they said. There were no further details and the identity of the rescue vessel was not known. The ship had been due to arrive in Ras Tanura Wednesday night.

Zanzibaris seek visas to Oman

ZANZIBAR (R) — Hundreds of Zanzibaris seeking to take advantage of new immigration laws in Oman queued for visas Monday and Tuesday at the Omani consulate in Zanzibar, open for the first time this year. Oman, which ruled Zanzibar from the 16th century to 1964, relaxed immigration rules for Zanzibaris of Arab origin last month — so long as they renounced Tanzanian citizenship. The prospective emigrants were mainly young men who said they were going because of better job prospects. They expected visas within a day or two. A government official said the Zanzibaris were free to settle anywhere, while an Omani diplomat in Zanzibar said the consulate was not limiting those seeking to settle in Oman. A slump in clove prices has battered Zanzibar's economy and aggravated unemployment. The island is also troubled by political tensions blamed on wealthy Zanzibaris opposed to the island's 1964 union with Tanganyika that formed Tanzania.

Libya seeks U.N. help

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Libya has complained to the United Nations that it was the target of renewed United States economic sanctions on grounds it encouraged terrorism and called on the international community to get the curbs rescinded. "The United States president has taken the arbitrary decision to reimpose economic sanctions against the socialist people's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, alleging that it is encouraging what he calls terrorism that endangers the security of the United States," Libyan Foreign Minister Jaouhar Talhi said in a letter to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Apparently referring to a trade ban periodically renewed since 1986, Talhi said: "The seriousness of these repeated United States allegations against Libya no longer requires proof or demonstration." He said the international community, which had unanimously condemned these practices, bore responsibility for taking "practical deterrent measures to halt this abusive monopolisation of international law and ethical principles."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo news message
18:30 Local programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Arabic programme
22:00 News in Arabic
23:40 Play "Petr"

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Baby Boon
21:30 Nanni World
22:00 News in English
22:30 Dabab in Death

PRAYER TIMES

05:39 Fajr
06:30 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:48 Dhuhr
14:41 'Asr
17:46 Maghrib
18:26 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetliah, Tel. 830740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Santa Church Tel. 622466
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261
St. Raphael Church Tel. 771751
Assiuta International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811225
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and relatively cold with westerly to northwesterly moderate wind. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Min./max. temp.
Amman 4 / 16
Aqaba 8 / 20
Dahab 3 / 12
Jordan Valley 8 / 17

YESTERDAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES

Amman 7, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 91 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Musa Badir 615487
Dr. Bahjat Badir 849362
Dr. Yousef Sammour 615648
Dr. Mohammed Abu Mahfouz 793344
Fawcett pharmacy 783336
Al Adana pharmacy 637053
Nairoukh pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Salem pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Amjed Obaidat (—)
Al Shuaib pharmacy (985238)
ZARQA:
Dr. Tariq Eljawi (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 890390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 661176

COMPLAINTS

Complaints 897467
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs 631102
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
Company 06-33200
RJ Flight Information 06-33200

QUEEN ALIA INTL. AIRPORT

06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldil Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Hilal Maternity, J. Amn 644412
Jubal Amman Maternity 642362
Maline, J. Amman 630340
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 663275/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77701/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Anny, Marika 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (05)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (05)991071
Bin Sina Hospital (05)989752

IRBID:

Princess Batina Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (05)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)
07:10 Jeddah (RJ)
07:15 Amman (RJ)
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Political parties essential in Jordan's experiment — Arar

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Salim Arar Tuesday renewed a call for the creation of political parties in Jordan and said he had acquainted himself with preparations for the establishment of two political parties.

Arar, in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the democratic experiment "will not be complete in Jordan except with the creation of political parties."

In reply to a question on a scheduled meeting in Baghdad later this month by parliamentarians from the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), Arar said that the Lower House supports the creation of a joint ACC parliament but Jordan's delegation to the Jan. 31 meeting would submit a number of ideas and proposals on the issue.

The Baghdad meeting, he said, is part of endeavours by Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan to achieve full Arab integration, "which is a great step aimed at achieving Arab unity."

Arar's comments on the ACC came two days after a statement made by Prime Minister Mudar Badran that Jordan finally supported any steps towards Arab integration and unity. In a committee made at a Lower House session, Badran said the ACC countries had already signed 27 agreements, paving the way for the agreed integration. An ACC summit to be held in Amman in February, 11 more agree-

ments are expected to be signed by the four heads of state.

In his interview with Petra Tuesday, Arar described Jordan's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as "stable and excellent."

"Our ties are based on firm Jordanian backing for the PLO in its efforts to regain Arab rights and lands," Arar said. "The PLO now avoids involvement in any issue that could harm Jordan's internal affairs since it recognises that all people living in Jordan are Jordanians," he said. "The Jordanian parliament supports the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and supports the Palestinian uprising," Arar added.

The uprising, he said, "is tightening the noose around Israel, which is trying to escape the pressure by provoking it into pursuing the course of peace."

"I do not trust any of Israel's declared intentions or plans about peace because it is merely trying to gain time and end the pressure brought about by the intifada," Arar said.

On domestic affairs, Arar said that Parliament had set up a special committee to study the problem of soaring prices. The committee will conduct investigations and will submit a report with proposed solutions, he said. Parliament, he said, will continue to look into problems encountered in agriculture, industry, information and education.

Zarqa residents present demands

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament members representing Zarqa Governorate Tuesday listened to public grievances in the constituency and complaints over municipal and public services.

Demands for solutions to the unemployment problem, reduction of fuel prices, a proper programme to dispose of a large pool of water near the Pepsi Cola plant where people have drowned and distribution of street lights were presented to the deputies at a big rally held at the Ramleh Charitable Society Centre.

Representatives of various public sectors attending the rally called on the deputies to help allow drivers of taxis which commute between Zarqa and the River Jordan bridges to operate within the Zarqa region when the bridges are closed, to initiate an investigation into the harm done to public safety by the Khirbet Al Samra waste-water treatment plant — specially in Dulc and Khaldeh towns and neighbouring villages — and an end to abrupt and announced power cuts in some areas.

Jordan, Syria pursue efforts to boost links

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz is back in Amman following a three-day visit to Damascus where he discussed with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi and ministers of economy and foreign trade issues related to economic and trade relations with Jordan.

In a statement upon his return here, Fariz said that preparations for a meeting in Amman of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee were reviewed in Damascus.

The minister said he signed with the Syrian ministers a pro-

Medical services in Madaba

Complaints about inadequacies in medical services in Madaba district south of Amman were discussed by Parliament members from the region with local officials and citizens.

Accompanied by Madaba Governor Mishaal Tarawneh, the deputies visited the government hospital where they were briefed by its director, Haidam Haddad, on the pressing need for new medical equipment to cope with the growing demands.

Three major equipment installed at the hospital have been out of order for nearly one year now despite constant complaints and reminders sent to the National Medical Institution (NMI), Haddad said. In addition, the hospital is in need of furniture, beds for children and essential medical supplies, Haddad added. He said that a children's annex was ready for occupancy four months ago, but due to lack of funds no furniture and no equipment have yet been installed at the facility.

Fariz also signed the minutes of a meeting of a joint subcommittee on Jordanian-Syrian industrial cooperation providing for an increase in the volume of exchanged industrial products and raw materials. Fariz also attended the general assembly meetings of the Joint Jordan-Syria Company of Industry.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday lays the foundation stone for the Al Amal Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Mentally Handicapped in Sahab (Petra photo).

Sahab gets centre for disabled

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday laid the foundation stone for the Al Amal Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Mentally Handicapped in the town of Sahab southeast of Amman and later inspected facilities by the Al Amal Special Education Centre.

The rehabilitation centre, which estimated to cost JD 50,000, is one of estimated to eight centres to be set up by the

General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) to offer facilities and care for handicapped children.

The other centres will be set up in Madaba, Zarqa, Maan, Ma'raq, Aqaba, Irbid, Ajloun, Salt and Jerash at a total cost of JD 1.1 million, GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib said at the Tuesday's ceremony. He said the centres would provide assistance,

along with the 50 existing centres to nearly 6,000 handicapped children.

Work on the eight centres is expected to be completed in September of this year and to start operations by the beginning of 1991.

The 50 centres offer services and care for the physically and mentally retarded, the deaf and dumb, the blind and victims of cerebral palsy.

Local firm gets Salt contract

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Corporation (HC) Tuesday announced that a local firm had been awarded a JD 1 million tender to construct a housing estate in Salt.

The formal signing of an official agreement on the project is expected in the next few weeks, according to Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, who also is chairman of the HC board of directors.

HC Director Yousef Hiyasat said that the Salt housing estate, which will be ready in two years, will have 109 housing units of two categories; 79 and 136 square metres in area respectively.

The corporation's board, Hiyasat said, has entrusted its financial committee to work out special regulations concerning savings by local residents to help them pay for housing units in easy instalments over a period of six years. He said the regulations would be announced in 30 days.

JTV, radio squirm under tight budget

By Sana Adyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan Television (JTV) and Radio Jordan directors and employees are complaining that the government-allocated JD 9 million budget for the broadcast media for the year 1990 is very tight, and they expect sharp reductions in the services and programmes offered by both.

According to the director-general of Jordan Radio and Television, Radi Alkhas, the amount barely covers the needed programmes and other expenses.

"This hardly covers anything, especially when the allocation for the TV programmes is only JD 1.2 million a year," Alkhas said, adding that a programme hour (episode) costs up to \$1,500 sometimes.

The rest of the allocations, he said, goes to electrical equipment, engineering, maintenance, administration and other expenses for both TV and radio. There is a separate budget for staff salaries. Alkhas explained that each electricity subscriber pays JD 1 per month, which is added on the electricity bill. "That is only 33 fils a day," he said.

and two fils an hour," he said. "Considering that we run an average of 16 hours a day, both channels each day, that is not much."

He added that the citizens' contribution amounts to JD 4.5 million a year, "which the Budget Department of the Finance Ministry takes away."

He said that it was only "fair" for citizens to be charged a little more than that amount.

"Considering that the public buys a newspaper or two a day costing 100 fils to 200 fils, and that many who rent video tapes for JD 1 per film, people should be obliged to pay a fraction more than the 33 fils a day to watch two channels for eight hours daily," Alkhas said.

He added that he plans to reevaluate the TV fees in the homes in different areas in the Kingdom to decide in which areas to raise the fee after a careful study and survey. "We will make sure that the poorer areas in the Kingdom would pay lower fees than the more affluent areas," Alkhas said.

A form of income that TV stations depend on in most countries is from advertise-

Soviet emigration poses gravest threat — Lawzi

AMMAN (J.T.) — Opening the door wide for Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine represents a flagrant aggression on the Arab Nation far exceeding the dimensions of all dangers posed to it throughout its history, Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi said in a statement Tuesday.

"Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine is bound to lend further support for Israel's expansionist aims in the Arab lands and encourage the Jewish state to perpetuate its current policies and its denial of the Palestinian people's right to their homeland," Lawzi said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Lawzi called for a unified Arab stand in the international arena in general and in the Soviet arena in particular to warn the world of the dangers inherent in Israel's settlement policies in the Arab

region and the danger posed to the efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. "This emigration constitutes an open defiance of international legitimacy and the rights of all countries in the region to live in peace and security," Lawzi added.

The Senate speaker called on the Soviet government to respect its friendly ties with the Arab World and to safeguard common interests. "If the liberalisation movement and the current political changes in Eastern Europe are behind this emigration fever, then at least the Jews should be allowed to emigrate to destinations other than the occupied Arab territories until a final settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict has been found and the Palestinian people's rights and lands are restored," Lawzi said.

He expressed hope that the emigration movement "will not

be used as a new weapon by the Israelis, who could be paying the way for new aggression against the Arab Nation."

Lawzi said that the Senate had already sent a memorandum to the Soviet Præsidium urging it to understand the Arab and Palestinian position with regard to peace and to help put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The memorandum pointed out the dangers inherent in continued Soviet Jewish emigration, Lawzi said.

Earlier Tuesday, Lawzi received in his office Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuck who conveyed to the speaker a message in reply to one sent to the Soviet Præsidium.

Lawzi and Zinchuck discussed Moscow's contribution to efforts to reach a final settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the exchange of land for peace.

TV malfunction explained

AMMAN (J.T.) — Those who had their television sets tuned into either of the two channels of Jordan Television late Monday night noticed that the sound was not coming out of their sets for 33 minutes. This was due to a technical malfunction, according to the director-general of Jordan Radio and TV, Radi Alkhas.

Alkhas said that there was a short circuit in a sound unit of the audio-distribution amplifier which caused other technical malfunctions and the sound was unable to reach the transmission stations. "It should not have taken more than five minutes to fix the unit," Alkhas said.

Alkhas, who worked as an engineer at the television before he was appointed as director-general, told the Jordan Times.

Alkhas said the engineer on duty was busy fixing the unit, and did not notify the staff at the transmission stations nor the staff at the TV stations that there was a serious sound malfunction.

"That's why it took so long before a message was written on the screen apologising for the fault on Channel One," Alkhas explained.

He added that the equipment that failed on Monday night was being expanded and that new audio distributors were expected to be installed as soon as they arrive.

But, surprisingly, the money collected from TV advertisements in Jordan adds up only to JD 800,000 a year, which is also collected by the Finance Ministry, the director-general explained.

The TV has tried to secure private sponsorship for programmes and films, "but even then, the sponsors' money went straight to the Budget Department, not directly to the television," according to a

source at JTV.

The source said that at least JD 3.5 million were needed just for the programmes that are bought from either local, Arab or Western producers.

"Each local episode of a series can cost up to JD 600; as much as it costs an imported episode from England, Australia or the United States," Alkhas said.

He added that imported Egyptian films and Oscar-win-

ning American movies sometimes cost the TV \$1,500. "So this JD 1.2 million a year for buying programmes and films hardly cover anything," he said.

The allocated budget for Jordan Radio is JD 400,000 annually. According to a reliable source from Radio Jordan "this very tight budget is supposed to cover our running cost for production of programmes, be they cultural, religious, entertainment, and so on."

Alkhas said that Jordan Radio does not impose any fees on listeners, as the case is with the TV. He also added that 46 per cent of the radio programmes are services to the public, such as the live transmission where the citizens raise queries to be answered on the air, announcement of cultural activities, advice on agriculture and so on.

"Although our budget is very, very low, our radio service is up to international standard. Somehow, we manage to survive and continue with high standards," the source said.

The source added that a "relatively sufficient budget for our programmes should be at least JD 700,000 a year."

Tourism Ministry raising funds to market Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Tourism is raising a \$700,000 fund to help finance a new campaign to attract foreign and local tourists to Jordan's archaeological and tourist sites, ministry Secretary-General Nasri Atallah said Tuesday.

The ministry has contributed \$100,000 to the fund and the rest will be supplied by Jordanian tourist and travel offices, Jordanian hotels, Royal Jordanian (RJ), the Jordan Express Transport Tourist and Transport Company (JETT), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), he said. Foreign airlines are expected to supply \$50,000 for the project, which will be executed this year, he added.

Atallah said a newly formed

committee in charge of the project was expected to hold its first meeting next week.

The committee groups representatives of the Ministry of Tourism, the Department of Antiquities, USAID, Royal Jordanian, Jordan's hotels, tourist offices and JETT. The main issues to be discussed, Atallah said, include costs of air travel and hotel services and accommodation. The committee, he added, will soon publish pamphlets and brochures in Arabic and other languages to be distributed through RJ offices around the world. Apart from the brochures, a set of documentary films, posters and other promotional materials would be produced.

Italy helps nursing

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first batch of male and female nurses has graduated after completing a nine-month clinical instructors' programme at Al Besheer Hospital financed by the Italian government in cooperation with the Ministry of Health in Jordan.

The two-year programme is part of the activities of the Nursing Tutors Training Institute established by the ministry and is designed to improve nursing education and supervisory capacity of nursing instructors working in a clinical environment.

The programme is implemented through the assistance of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department for Cooperation in Development, according to the Italian Embassy here.

Italian Ambassador to Jordan Francesco de Courten delivered a speech at the graduation ceremony. Italy considers it extremely

important to strengthen its technical and economic cooperation with the developing world, he said.

Through this process, "Italy believes that it can pursue the goals of international peace and stability," he said. Italy provided two instructors for the programme as well as all the material needed.

Following an agreement reached in April 1988, the Italian government allocated to the project an amount of \$185,000 and sent to Jordan four experts for preparing programmes and selecting candidates in cooperation with the competent Jordanian authorities. Italy later supplied office equipment, including typewriters and photocopiers as well as a didactical slide projector, a television set and other apparatus to be used by the trainees.


Yarmouk to host training seminar on anti-drug battle

IRBID (J.T.) — Yarmouk University and the Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will co-sponsor a training seminar under the theme education is prevention against drugs beginning Jan. 29.

University official Dr. Mohammad Khawaldeh said that the seminar, to be held at the university, had been planned as a

trial course that could be introduced later to various academic institutions and universities of the Arab World. About 40 people will take part in the seminar, which would last until the end of the university's second term, Khawaldeh added.

According to Khawaldeh, participants will be oriented on drug addiction, and the effects of drugs on human health and psychology.



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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

HOUSE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS: The Lower House of Parliament Committee of Public Health and Environment Safety Tuesday elected Dr. Ahmad Innab as chairman and Dr. Youssef Khasawneh as rapporteur (Petra).

FROZEN MEAT CENTRES: The Ministry of Supply is currently studying requests by several citizens for authorisation to open centres for selling frozen meat in various parts of Jordan (Petra).

AMMAN-TUNIS YOUTH LINKS: The Jordanian and Tunisian ministers of youth Ibrahim Ghababeh and Hammouch Ben Salameh Tuesday held talks on promoting cooperation in sports and youth sectors. The two ministers discussed in particular the prospect of launching cooperation in the two fields under the terms of a bilateral agreement on cultural cooperation already concluded between them. Initial agreement was reached on setting up a joint technical committee to hold periodic meetings in Amman and Tunis to follow up coordination in these fields (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition entitled "They chose 36 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Mohammad Al Jalous at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photographic exhibition at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

Jordan Times

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Issue of unemployment comes first

IT IS comforting to note that the government is taking the unemployment problem to heart and plans to apply effective remedial steps to alleviate it. With more than 20 per cent of Jordanians estimated to be out of work at a time when inflation has also reached unbearable proportions, it is high time to take effective measures to reverse the tide of unemployment and rising cost of living. There is a consensus among economists that these two principal economic woes have taken a heavy toll on Jordanians and the urgent need to solve these pressing issues has superseded many other vital concerns in the country.

Of course, it is much easier to diagnose the problem of unemployment than to rectify it. All sorts of imaginative ideas have been put forward to alleviate the problem, including calls for reducing the number of foreign workers and a total ban on non-Jordanian workers. The most promising proposal submitted yet in this vein, however, is to increase export-oriented industries as the principal avenue to address the mushrooming unemployment problem. The introduction of a five-day working week has also been suggested as an effective way to spread work around. Yet, whatever the solution is and wherever the government can find it, there is no escape from introducing some meaningful steps to lessen the hardships of Jordanians who have become victims of unemployment for no fault of theirs.

While it is perhaps premature for the country to think in terms of introducing a social welfare system for the unemployed as is the case in most if not all developed countries, it is nevertheless opportune now to start contemplating ways and means to come to the rescue of the unemployed in all walks of life. In this vein, one may suggest that the terms of reference of the Social Security Corporation (SSC) be expanded at an appropriate time in order to extend its services and benefits to the unemployed as well. Even meagre assistance to the unemployed and their families would be a good start on the road that hopefully could lead the country in to an era of social security that takes full care of the unemployed. Come to think of it, the SSC is not short on funds and once its accumulated capital is most profitably invested, it may be just possible for it to start helping the unemployed, beginning with the most depressed among them. The fact that the government of Mr. Mubarak Badran is fully seized with the problem and is most concerned about it constitutes a most positive beginning that could offer the ultimate solution to unemployed Jordanians.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday commented on King Hussein's reaffirmation to the prime minister that the country will shortly witness the birth of the national charter which should serve as an umbrella for all political movements and groupings in the Kingdom. The paper said that the country is in need of a national charter which is in harmony with the national constitution and which can organise political activity in the Kingdom. There can be no alternative to unity of ranks and close cooperation under the umbrella of the constitution if the Jordanian people are to achieve their aspired goals, the paper noted. The national charter, the paper added, will complement the democratic march which started with the election of parliament that has the task of cooperating with the executive authority in handling the state's affairs. The paper said that parliamentary life was the beginning of the road towards democracy, and the Jordanians look forward to the national charter which is bound to help various ranks to unite in shouldering responsibilities and in carrying out duties.

A guest columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily criticises Turkey for refusing to sign with Iraq and Syria an international agreement based on international laws and regulations on the exploitation of the Euphrates river which rises in Turkey and passes through the territories of the two Arab states. Hassan Tawabeh says that Turkey continues to control the river water and stops its flow any time it wishes thus causing a great deal of harm and damage to the interests of its neighbours which use the water for irrigation. Experts say that the Ataturk dam will take at least five years to fill; and so why the hurry and why should Turkey speed up the process of filling the dam at the expense of its Arab neighbours and their national interests, the writer adds. In view of the fact that Turkey and Iraq maintain very strong relations economically and politically, specially as Iraq's oil pipelines pass through Turkish territory; and in view of the fact that Turkey plans to irrigate vast areas of land to produce crops most of which will be sold in the Arab markets, then Turkey should reconsider its current plans and try to safeguard the interests of its neighbours and its own without causing any friction to the existing strong ties between Turkey and the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour Arabic daily on Tuesday tackled the question of the national charter as proposed by King Hussein to organise political activity in the Kingdom. The paper said the formation of a royal commission to prepare for the charter is complementary to the democratic march in Jordan which started with the election of deputies to the Lower House of Parliament. The paper voiced its welcome to the King's decision to involve all political movements in the country in the royal commission which, it said, can boost the democratic process further. Opening the door for political groupings to take part in the formation of the national charter, the paper said, is bound to enhance the spirit of confidence within the Jordanian family and strengthen unity among the Jordanian people.

Asian Communists cling to power as comrades fall

By Dan Biers
The Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — As they nervously watch their Eastern European comrades tumble from power, Vietnam and other Communist states in Asia have defiantly vowed to march down the socialist, one-party road into the 21st century.

Unchallenged Communist rule may be fast disappearing in Europe but it is making a stand in Vietnam, North Korea and China, where aging revolutionaries employed tanks and automatic rifles to crush last year's democracy movement.

Analysts point to several reasons why Asian Communists have avoided the fate of their European counterparts so far. The largest Communist states in Asia were founded by home-grown nationalist leaders, such as Mao Zedong in China and Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam, who won legitimacy by defeating foreign aggressors.

European Communist governments, however, owed their establishment and continued existence to Moscow, and found their positions untenable when President Mikhail Gorbachev decided the Red Army would no longer interfere militarily to prop them up.

Asian nations ruled by Communists also lack Europe's democratic experience, but have a strong Confucian tradition, which emphasises respect for authority.

Further, there is no organised domestic opposition to the Asian Communist governments that would be comparable to the Solidarity trade union in Poland, which was a rallying point for dissent.

Many Vietnamese dissidents have left the country since the war ended in 1975 to escape "re-education camps" and other measures of repression. Several leading Chinese activists have fled overseas, gone underground or have been arrested since the June crackdown on the pro-democracy movement.

In the face of Europe's sweeping changes, Asia's Communist nations have vigorously defended one-party socialism.

Chinese Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin said at the end of last year that party leadership was a "historical necessity." "Without centralism we will have extreme democracy and anarchy, and nothing can be accomplished," he said.

Highly regimented North Korea reportedly recalled some of its students from Eastern Europe, presumably so they would not witness the changes that Pyongyang considers political heresy.

Kim Jong Il, the country's heir apparent, said the North Korean Communist Party "must on no account admit heterogeneous ideas into it. In party activity, the unity of action based on a single ideology can be realised through monolithic leadership."

Even tiny Laos chimed in, with

its official radio opening the new year with a broadcast acknowledging that 1989 was "a nightmare" for socialism and calling on the people to rally around the ruling Communist Party leadership.

No Asian country has been more vocal than Vietnam in recent weeks in defence of Communism.

"It's not that the tree is no good, but the ones who planted the tree are no good," said Maj. Gen. Trang Cong Man, permanent vice secretary-general of the Vietnam Journalists Association, in explaining the collapse of socialism in Europe.

Party chief Nguyen Van Linh said in his new year's message that building Socialism would be a goal for Vietnam in 1990. Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach said the socialist system would emerge reinvigorated after overcoming the crisis it faces in Eastern Europe.

Still, the Asian nations clearly are troubled by the implications of the European revolution and are drawing lessons.

"We follow these events in Europe so we can distinguish what is good and what is bad," said Man. The sweeping changes show, for example, that Eastern Europeans wanted more democracy and higher production levels, he said.

Hanoi already realises that if socialism is to survive it needs a dose of market-oriented reform to stimulate the economy, some-

thing that European Communists failed to grasp.

After a decade of disastrous economic policies, Vietnam in 1986 introduced reforms such as deregulating prices, permitting private enterprise and vastly curtailing subsidies to state enterprises.

Although Vietnam remains one of the world's poorest nations, substantial gains in food production and in fighting inflation were made last year and consumerism is booming.

Many Hanoi stores already are stocked with the foreign colour televisions and video cassette recorders favoured by Vietnamese.

In many ways, the economic programme is similar to the changes brought about in China by senior leader Deng Xiaoping during the 1980s.

Deng refused to open up the political system, however, leading to widespread protests for democracy that eventually led to the bloody crackdown on dissent and the resurgence of aging, conservative leaders who are turning the clock back on economic reform.

Hanoi also has opted to proceed with political change at a much slower pace than economic reform.

The Vietnamese Communist Party newspaper Nhan Dan said in November that the party "does not accept opposition political parties in a socialist society — the main feature of political pluralism has been rejected by our party."

Vietnam's national assembly, after what official media described as a "heated debate," also recently passed a draft press law that forbids private ownership of newspapers and gives the central government a say in firing and appointing editors in chief.

One Western ambassador in Hanoi, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he did not believe there was popular pressure for immediate creation of a multiparty system because the country was politically exhausted after decades of fighting foreign armies.

"What the people like most is peace and security, and doing business and developing the economy, that is the first and foremost demand of the Vietnamese people," agreed author Nguyen Dinh Thi.

Another Western diplomat, who also requested anonymity, argued that the Vietnamese were not so much concerned with developing more political parties but wanted the Communists to become more open and progressive.

Thi, a party member for 40 years who nonetheless angered the leadership with a 1978 play that protested personality cults and dogmatism, sounded the same theme.

"This party must accept pluralism of opinions," he said in a recent interview. "I think we should have many social organisations, but it is not necessary

to have many parties." In private conversations, Vietnamese said they had learned about events in Eastern Europe from party-controlled media and Voice of America and British Broadcasting Corp. radio broadcasts. They generally reacted favourably to the changes.

One shopkeeper's face lit up when asked if he knew that the Berlin Wall had fallen.

"Yes, I know what has happened in Eastern Europe," said a store clerk. "It is good, and it will be good for Vietnam, too," the clerk said while also expressing approval of the country's more relaxed policies of recent years.

One Eastern European observer argued that Vietnam's Communists are widely disliked and could eventually face a challenge similar to that posed by pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square in Peking.

Official corruption, one of the main complaints voiced in Tiananmen, is likely to worsen as the economy improves.

Whether the Asian Communist governments can survive will largely depend on how a new generation of leaders faces the challenges left by the aging revolutionaries who soon will fade from the scene.

"The party still has to deliver the goods," the diplomat said of Vietnamese Communists. If they are to survive, he added, they will require a "very pragmatic view of Marxist-Leninism."

Ethnic grievances boiling over from Caucasus to Baltics

By Andrew Katell
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — From central Asia to the Caucasus and the Baltics, ancient ethnic grievances in the ring of security the Kremlin took centuries to gather around itself have come back to infect the country with nationalism.

Ancient grudges among neighbours that simmered quietly under the Soviet facade of brotherhood and outright demands for independence could spell the disintegration of Moscow's vast empire, leaving Russia itself standing virtually alone.

The breeding grounds are southern deserts, the Caucasus mountains, the fields and forests of Moldavia, the fertile soil of the Ukraine and the seaside Baltics. They host a patchwork of many of the Soviet Union's more than 100 nationalities with bloody histories sandwiched between mighty empires.

Gorbachev, now forced to deal with Armenians and Azerbaijanis equipped with automatic weapons, surface-to-surface missiles and helicopters, told Soviets he was struggling with a legacy of ethnic hatred.

"The problems, which have been accumulating for tens, no, for hundreds of years, have erupted and acquired the character we are now confronted with in the Baltics, Moldavia and now in such forms this inter-ethnic strife are going on in Transcaucasia, in Azerbaijan and Armenia," he said Thursday.

In Lithuania less than a week earlier, where he was trying to rein in a peaceful but determined secessionist movement, the Soviet leader openly worried that demands for independence could lead to "the union's disintegration on ethnic grounds."

Gorbachev's openness policy and democratic reforms have let the genie out of the bottle, in many cases with violent consequences. Formerly underground and long-repressed groups pressing for secession in Georgia, Armenia, Moldavia, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia are out in the open.

The Soviet leader says he is not blame if what was hidden is now

revealed. But he adds his goal is to prevent the conflicts from getting worse.

Long before Gorbachev, the czars pushed south into central Asia and the Caucasus and west into the Baltics and Moldavia in the 18th and 19th centuries. They brought under their control lands bordering other major empires that frequently threatened invasion.

With arrests, deportations, pogroms, discrimination or outright murder, Soviet rulers and the Russian czars before them did little to make the local populations trust their masters in Moscow.

Alexander III introduced Russification, angering non-Russian peoples. His son Nicholas II, the last czar, continued this approach.

Soviet founder Vladimir I. Lenin called the Russian empire a "prison of nations." In 1917, the year of the revolution, peasants upset by the postponement of agrarian reform struck out at Russian settlers.

In the early years of Soviet power under Lenin, nationalist ferment was high in Byelorussia, the Ukraine, central Asia, Transcaucasia and the Baltics, the same areas where troubles abound now.

Many states, like the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, took Lenin's policy of national self-determination to heart and declared their independence. But one by one, Stalin brought them back under Kremlin control.

Stalin, a Georgian, also pursued Russification. In Moldavia, taken back from Romania in 1940, the language was converted from Latin to Cyrillic letters.

Armenians and Georgians, two Christian ethnic groups in the Caucasus that in the 19th and early 20th centuries sought protection of the Russian czar against the Ottoman empire, now are among those fighting most vigorously for independence.

After Gorbachev took power, Crimean Tatars and Armenians led the way for other nationalities in voicing their long pent-up grievances. The Crimean Tatars demanded to resettle in the Crimean peninsula, from which they were deported by Stalin. The Armenians wanted to regain control over Nagorno-Karabakh, a small mountainous territory Stalin had transferred to Azerbaijan hands in 1923.

The Nagorno-Karabakh dispute has turned out to be the bloodiest ethnic feud in recent years, and is the focus of the latest and most dangerous flareup.

But that is just the tip of the iceberg. Uzbeks attacked Meskhetian Turks, another group deported by Stalin from their homeland, last June in the Fergana valley of Uzbekistan, leaving more than 100 people dead.

Abkhazians clashed with Georgians, who also fought with Ossetians.

Ronald Smy, a U.S. scholar on Soviet nationalities, estimates there are 40 areas of the Soviet Union where uprooted populations could make territorial claims.

Soviet officials worried out loud about a chain reaction or domino effect in the campaigns to assert national rights.

Calls for independence were heard in the Ukraine, the second-largest of the 15 republics, in September when activists formed the Rukh political movement, modelled on the people's front organisations that are pressing for

independence in the Baltics and elsewhere.

A serious secessionist effort in the Ukraine, the cradle of Russian civilisation and a contemporary industrial and agricultural powerhouse with 50 million residents, would bring the problem much closer to Moscow than unrest in the Caucasus or the Baltics.

Political activists in Russia itself have grasped the significance of movements such as the People's Front, and formed similar organisations.

From the chauvinistic Russian nationalist organisation pamyat to movements of liberal political reformers, Russians have reacted

to the increase of ethnic feelings on the fringes with increased nationalistic feelings of their own.

Gorbachev's proposed solutions have satisfied few, and ethnic activists see them as being at odds with his outright endorsement of democratic reforms in Eastern Europe. But tolerance for that kind of change stops at the Soviet border.

Gorbachev has emphasised the historical and economic ties linking Baltic residents, Uzbeks, Armenians and Azerbaijanis to the Soviet Union. And he told Lithuanians recently that solutions can be found in his reform programme.

Baku unrest pushes Gorbachev to use of force

By Mark J. Porubcansky
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Mikhail S. Gorbachev sent soldiers crashing through barricades of buses and trucks to battle armed nationalists in Baku only after the threat of civil war and secession overcame his deep reluctance to use force.

In both foreign and internal affairs, the Soviet leader is trying to instill the supremacy of negotiation and law in a country more accustomed to the heavy hands that filled labour camps and unmarked graves and invaded Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan.

Mindful of the bloody precedents, Gorbachev tried to defuse the ancient Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict that resurfaced in February 1988 with decrees, discussions and appeals to common sense. Victims of the conflict, and the budding political opposition openly second-guess him, accusing Gorbachev of aggravating the problem with indecision.

He ordered the military to shoot if necessary when he became convinced he had no

alternative.

"It could no longer go on," a worn-looking Gorbachev told the nation in a television address Saturday.

"Instances of brutal violence, vandalism and the violation of laws have mounted in the country," he said. "The state is duty-bound to put an end to lawlessness and inhumanity, to resolutely curb criminal actions of extremists who have lost human face, who are prepared to take other people's lives for the sake of personal ambition, selfish interests and power."

Some soldiers were killed in the fighting, a somber Gorbachev said. "Grief came today into some homes. I convey to these families my most sincere condolences," he said.

The ethnic conflict and anger with Moscow's stand has led nationalists in both Azerbaijan and Armenia to demand full independence for their republics. But in Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, the political instability was accompanied by attacks that killed dozens of ethnic Armenians.

Gorbachev has staked his reforms on convincing the world

that the Soviet Union believes consultation is better than confrontation. Domestically, he is removing Moscow's heavy hand in order to shift more responsibility to local authorities.

In raising the prestige and power of local authorities, he has assumed that they logically would follow his reform policies, and he has appeared startled and angry when they have not.

But in the past, the Soviet leader had sent in interior ministry soldiers only to guard vital installations in Armenia and Azerbaijan, and to end a bloody attack on minority Meskhetian Turks in Uzbekistan that left about 100 people dead.

Once, when he was out of the country, violence was used against nationalist protesters in the other Caucasus republic, Georgia. The slaughter of 19 demonstrators by troops who wielded shotguns because Gorbachev earlier had ordered them disarmed, sparked a national outcry that probably was at least partly responsible for the retirement of a former KGB chief from the ruling politburo.

Writer and historian Ales Adamovich, a progressive member of the Congress of People's Deputies, fretted in a study of Gorbachev's personality, printed earlier this month in the weekly Moscow News, that the Soviet leader risks losing respect because of his disdain for using force.

"Can you achieve anything in this country with his character,

mentality and psychology — without a strong hand?" he asked. "He risks being misunderstood or just losing people's respect altogether. Remember the people had respect for Stalin."

"Isn't there a risk that his personal democratic and non-violence could be regarded as his weakness — in a country accustomed to a different style of leadership?"

Armenians and Azerbaijanis have bitterly criticised Gorbachev's handling of the crisis that surrounds their conflicting claims to the Nagorno-Karabakh territory.

World chess champion Gari Kasparov, a resident of Baku whose mother is Armenian, blamed Gorbachev's permissiveness for the bloodletting.

"Everyone can decide for themselves, but what can one think of a government that has permitted such horrendous events?" he said in an interview with a Spanish newspaper.

At least one Western military observer in Moscow agreed with the critics that Gorbachev in the past has not acted forcefully enough.

"When you have people shooting at each other and killing each other with guns and other hardware, you have to disarm them," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity before the soldiers moved into Baku. "To do that, you have to kill some of them. If he's not willing to do that, he's not going to stop the fighting."

LETTERS

Rude Service

To the Editor:

HAVE you ever tried to call information (121)? If you have then I am sure you will agree with me on the assessment of such a service. This criticism might harm a few dedicated workers, but since the majority is bad then as they say one rotten apple in the basket ruins the whole basket.

This criticism is voiced by a Jordanian citizen who is totally fed up with this service, and who thinks attention should be brought forward upon bettering this civil communication facility. I ask you 'is it fair to have such rude and lazy civil servants? I do

not think so. I do not think that operators should be rude to the public and go as far as hanging up the phone in their faces. I do not think they should give out wrong numbers, or read them very fast before one has time to write them down. To top this sometimes you call and there is no answer. I suggest then, if it is very troublesome for these operators to work in field where there is much contact with the public, that they either change their jobs or quit them; both ways they will be doing a great public service.

Serene Hakeem



Special teachers are a rarity



The children celebrate Mothers' Day

Jordan has an estimated 90,000 cases of mentally handicapped children. Care for these children requires a budget of JD 60 million. Only JD 500,000 is provided. **Sana Atiyah** reports:

Forsaken, forgotten children

AMMAN — Jordan enjoys a regional reputation as a country with a social conscience, exemplified by the number of voluntary and charitable societies caring for the less fortunate, particularly the physically disabled. Overlooked in the bargain is the sad fact that only a tiny fraction of the Kingdom's estimated 90,000 cases of mentally retarded children has access to the few special centres which take care of them.

According to Dr. Abdullah Khatib, president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), there are only 13 centres in Jordan providing care for about 2,000 mentally retarded. One of the main reasons for the situation, according to Khatib and other experts, is the lack of government funding. While the estimated requirement to implement a comprehensive programme to address all cases of handicapped in the country is around JD 60 million, government funding remains at a meagre JD 500,000, Khatib said.

According to the GUVS president, the numerous voluntary societies and organisations in the country raise whatever they can and try to help the handicapped, but still the facilities and services thus made available are far short of the actual requirement. Not having enough centres to serve the disabled — particularly the mentally retarded — is only one aspect of the situation; there are many other gaps that need to be filled. No special playgrounds or recreational facilities — one of the prime needs of the mentally retarded — are available in the Kingdom. One might ask why there should be segregated facilities for the mentally handicapped; the answer, according to experts in the field, is simple — the awareness among the Jordanian people of the need to deal with the mentally retarded as equal human beings is so low that segregated facilities are the only remedy as the first step towards increasing awareness and move towards giving the mentally handicapped their rightful place in society.

Sense of "alienation"

"I cannot take my daughter anywhere during the summer vacation because people gather around and stare at her as if she came from another planet — as if she doesn't belong to the human race," a mother of an autistic daughter told the Jordan Times.

Aida Beseiso has devoted the past 15 years to helping her daughter Basma, but is bitter and frustrated over the gaps that need to be filled.

"During the summer, I really suffer because I cannot take her to a garden, a park or a club because of the way people look at her, the way they talk to her, stare at her. It really hurts, and she is very sensitive," Beseiso said.

She had to cancel memberships in two private clubs in Amman because of the discomfort it caused her and Basma. "There is no place we can take our children for recreation, for swimming or playing... not a single place in Amman," she said.

It was four years into Basma's life before the Beseisos found out that she was autistic, a form of abnormal subjectivity where a child accepts and lives a fantasy rather than reality, characterised by withdrawal.

Before that, different doctors provided various diagnoses for

Basma's problem. For a long period, Basma was on wrong medication that eventually made her case more severe — only one of many common medical malpractices which get reported.

Basma could not receive specialised help because there are no specialists in autism in the Kingdom. In fact, Basma was not even accepted in specialised centres for the handicapped as a small child.

Having noticed that many other severely mentally handicapped children were being rejected at the existing centres, Beseiso took it up on herself to establish the National Association for the Mentally Handicapped (NAMH) in 1978. Along with other parents of mentally handicapped children and specialists, she founded the society, and later a centre.

There are no estimates over the number of autistic children in the Kingdom, but there are probably enough in need of proper treatment from doctors specialised in this field.

Need for experts

Again the problem is funding. "We thought of inviting experts on autism, but they need accommodation, plane tickets and all sorts of things. We cannot afford it, although we are in need of people who understand autistic children," Beseiso pointed out.

In the meantime, and for 15 years, Beseiso has been working with her only daughter on the basis of trial and error.

"Sometimes we're stuck; we don't know what to do. But we are trying our best, and I'm sure there are methods where we can break through with autistic children," Beseiso said, repeating the need for specialists. Besides lack of money and expertise, Beseiso, along with other parents of severely mentally handicapped children, face a problem with finding proper dental clinics for the children.

Basma is one of the cases that

needs complete anaesthesia before a dentist can attend to her teeth.

"There is not a single dental clinic in the whole Kingdom to care for the mentally handicapped, and none of the hospitals have the facilities," Beseiso said.

Mentally handicapped are especially discriminated against in Jordan, again due to lack of awareness and understanding from the bulk of the population that special people not only need special attention, but also special courtesy, experts say.

When the NAMH had to move the centre from Sweifich because the landlord wanted to build another storey and live in the house, it took the management of the centre months before finding a new place.

"It was a very painful experience. For months, we looked for an independent villa to be our centre, and couldn't find one — not because there are no empty houses in Amman but because the landlords refused to lease them out to us," Beseiso said.

A common excuse Beseiso heard from the landlords was: "Sorry, we can't give our house to retarded children. When we tell our children, they would have nightmares and can't sleep nights just thinking that retarded children will sleep in their house."

The NAMH finally found one but it does not have a playground or garden where the children can play, and the rent is "too high."

Although the centre cares for 45 children, only 12 families can afford to pay a sum of JD 5 to JD 35 monthly for their child.

According to Beseiso, each child costs the centre JD 95 a month. The NAMH members, however, feel it would be unfair for parents to pay if they do not have the money.

"Where should the poor kids go? There are already 500 children on our waiting list, and we can't absorb them because the place is just too small; each

classroom can only hold five to seven children," Beseiso raised another point.

Besides receiving special academic and basic education, the centre provides children from the ages of five to 16 with special physiotherapy and special counselling and social work with the families, transportation, and a hot meal everyday except Thursdays and Saturdays.

Funds — a big question

Besides understanding, what the centre needs — perhaps along with many other similar centres — are funds. The amount that would make the centre survive is JD 40,000 a year.

Although the NAMH holds an annual charity bazaar (where not much money is made any way), GUVS provides the centre, as well as all the others, a sum of JD 300 annually.

The centre needs special educational equipment and toys, bigger premises that would include a hostel to enable children to rest for a short period when necessary, and a vocational centre for older children.

"One of my older students, 16 years old, has not come to the centre this week. He called me up this morning and told me that he was getting bored; that he needs to learn more than what he already knows," Sylvia Salem, director of the centre, told the Jordan Times.

She said that when the children acquire basic skills — to read, write and solve math problems, — "they need to do more, learn more, and feel stimulated and productive; to develop their potential skills."

"If we had a vocational centre, this boy and many others would not need to sit at home doing nothing. Between the ages of 10 and 12, mentally handicapped children need to prepare for vocational training. And then, by the time they are

16 they have to receive full vocational training to prepare them for a profession," Salem said.

The centre as well as parents also feel an urgent need for a hostel where children can stay on a temporary basis when necessary.

"If the mother is busy with an important matter, like a death in the family for example, who would take care of her handicapped child? Where would he or she go? What if he needs to travel somewhere and must leave her child behind?" Beseiso asked.

According to Salem, if a hostel was set up, the children can stay there and receive not only the special care they need, but also a closer observation of their behaviour by specialists in order to understand their problems and habits as if they were at home not at school.

The 2,000 mentally handicapped are fortunate to be able to find special schools and centres to take care of them and teach them things that would make them survive in society. But what about the 88,000, many of whom are children? Where should they go?

If society is more understanding, these unfortunate children would not have to face the double-difficulty of not receiving special care and not being accepted as human beings in society.

When Beseiso saw the Oscar-winning film "Rain Man," about an autistic man played by Dustin Hoffman, at a local movie theatre, she was very hurt to find the audience laughing at the "not so funny parts" as if it were a comedy. She said that this was only a small example of how ignorant most Jordanians were concerning the mentally handicapped.

When this reporter saw "Rain Man" in the United States, she noticed the audience left the movie theatre with tears and smiles on their faces; sympathetic tears and smiles of understanding.

How to hold down population explosion

By Carl Hartman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More schools and more jobs for women would do most to hold down huge growth in the numbers of people in the Third World, a report by the Population Institute has said. It found a link between ignorance and overpopulation.

"The population explosion is no longer a prediction. It's already here," according to the institute, an advocacy group on this issue.

The study noted that last year, the world's population increased by more than 90 million people. Rich countries like the United States have ignorant people as well as the Third World, though there are fewer. The report said that among people in some industrial countries, one in 10 is "functionally illiterate." That is, they can read and write some, but they cannot follow printed instructions or write a simple letter.

The report said about 900 million of the world's 5.5 billion people cannot read, and that almost two out of every three illiterates are women.

"In Sudan women with no formal education had, on average, 6.5 children," it said. "But

Sudanese women with four to six years of school averaged five children and those with seven or more years of school averaged 3.4 children."

"In Mexico... uneducated women had an average of eight children but women with seven or more years of education averaged 2.7," the report said.

The study reported that women who get only one or two years of school tend to have more surviving children rather than fewer. It suggested that was because even a little education helps a mother keep her babies alive. Women who stay at school longer get married later and know more about contraceptives.

The study was prepared by Harold N. Burdett, the institute's director of information, and Werner Fornos, its president.

"Nations that have opened up the schoolhouse and the workplace to women have experienced uniform declines in their fertility rates," Fornos said.

At a news conference, he praised South Korea for its programme to give all girls eight years of school and to emphasise the textile industry as a big employer of women.

"In Bangladesh... high fertility rates have been slow to decline

and many girls are already married by the age of 13," the report said.

Bangladesh, where the average person has an income of \$170 a year, is one of the world's poorest countries.

The report continued: "By contrast South Korea, a country of 42 million people which has made significant economic strides in recent years, has a 1.4 per cent annual growth rate — the lowest of any major developing nation in Asia — and the average age at first marriage has risen from 17.8 years several decades ago to approximately 23 years today."

The World Bank put the average income in South Korea at \$3,530 in 1988.

Fornos also cited Mexico for encouraging industries along the border that make goods for the United States. He said there are about 900 where women do 85 per cent of the work on such jobs as assembling computer parts.

He found 30 countries in the Third World in this kind of restructuring: from Zimbabwe, trying like South Korea to keep girls in school for eight years, to Indonesia, where "mothers' clubs" help women care for their babies and learn new skills.

'X-rays stream from galaxy neighbours'

ARLINGTON, Virginia (AP) — The violence of early star formation in new galaxies may be a major source of cosmic X-rays, a mysterious radiation that has puzzled astronomers for decades, two Columbia University scientists say.

Astrophysicists David Helfand and Thomas Hamilton said Friday they had found seven galaxies reasonably near the Earth's own Milky Way galaxy that are spewing out X-rays at a hotter rate than the so-called background X-rays detectable all over the universe.

Though they only found seven such galaxies, the scientists said that further searches may reveal many more, showing perhaps that such galaxies provide a high percentage of the cosmic X-rays in the universe.

"These galaxies are representative of a larger population at a greater distance that makes up (or emits) the bulk of the X-ray background," said Hamilton. "These that we see are only the nearest neighbours."

The galaxies are called "neigh-

bours," said Helfand, because "they are relatively nearby, only a couple of billion light years away."

This is considered close, astronomically.

A light year is the distance that light travels in space in a year, about nine trillion kilometres.

The discovery of X-ray emitting galaxies so close and seemingly undergoing star formation, Helfand said, suggests that in the history of the universe star formation continued up until relatively recently. Most astronomers believe that star formation took place in the early part of the 15 to 20 billion-year-old universe and then tailed off.

"These galaxies may be bright X-ray sources because they are undergoing an early stage of their evolution and still forming massive stars," said Helfand. "They may be a key link in being able to study the evolution of galaxies."

X-rays are thought to be generated naturally in the universe when interstellar gas is heated to millions of degrees. Such heating can occur during the course of

star formation when vast amounts of matter are attracted to a core by gravitational force. Black holes, bodies massive enough to create a gravitational field that keeps even light from escaping, can also generate X-rays by pulling material from nearby stars, Helfand said.

X-rays cannot be detected on Earth, which is shielded by the atmosphere. But satellites orbiting above the atmosphere can measure the radiation.

To find the X-ray emitters, Helfand and Hamilton gathered data on 100 faint radio sources in a region of the sky about the size of the full moon. These sources were then checked to see if they coincided with X-ray hot spots that had been discovered by satellites. Seven of the radio emitters were found to be bright in X-rays, and these later were found by optical telescopes to be very faint galaxies.

Helfand and Hamilton presented their study at the 175th national meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Arab National Bank boosts profit

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia's Arab National Bank has said its 1989 net profit jumped 24 per cent to a record 322 million riyals (\$86 million). Managing Director Haider Darwish told Reuters by telephone from Riyadh the bank predicted better results in 1990 than 1989, as its profits to rise at the same rate because of a 20 per cent increase in Saudi interest rates. Provisions for bad and anticipated declines in Saudi interest rates. Provisions for bad and doubtful loans in 1989 were kept steady at the previous year level of 62 million riyals (\$16.5 million) he said. A bank statement said revenues rose 21 per cent to 1.3 billion riyals (\$345 million) while expenses increased by 20 per cent to 973 million riyals (\$260 million). Total assets climbed 16 per cent to 15.7 billion riyals (\$4.2 billion). Arab National Bank is owned 40 per cent by the Amman-based Arab Bank Limited and 60 per cent by Saudi shareholders.

Manila, banks sign agreement

NEW YORK (AP) — The Philippines government Monday began formal signing ceremonies here with more than 350 international creditor banks on amendments to the country's public sector restructuring agreements and 1985 new money agreement, Manufacturers Hanover Trust company announced. Manufacturers Hanover, a major New York bank, heads the bank advisory committee that negotiates with the Philippines on its \$12 billion foreign bank debt, which represents nearly half its total \$28 billion foreign debt. Last Jan. 3 the Philippines bought back \$1.3 billion of its foreign bank debt for \$650 million, and undertook to borrow \$1 billion more from the banks through an international bond issue. Manufacturers Hanover said the amendments signed Monday "confirm the interest rate, tenor and grace period of the 1985 new money agreement to those of the new Philippine bonds."

Iran to introduce unleaded petrol

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has said it would introduce unleaded petrol later this year to cut pollution. Tehran radio quoted the head of a fuel research department at the oil ministry as saying plans were being studied to phase out leaded petrol over 10 years. The head of the environment protection organisation, Hadi Manafi, said motor vehicles were responsible for 70 per cent of Tehran's "alarming" air pollution, the rest coming mainly from factories and heaters. Iran's IRNA news agency has reported.

Iran seeks foreign credits

He said Japan is likely to limit credits to countries, where per capita gross national product is no more than \$2,200 for the year

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said earlier this month that Iran had to borrow hard currency to rebuild its

He praised parliament for approving a five-year development plan allowing use of up to \$77 billion of foreign credit.

NO, YOU CAN'T BE A SHEPHERD BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SHEEP..

© 1990 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

U!!?

BAA!

I MUST BE OUT OF MY MIND..

SCENE

I'VE GOT TO GIVE IT UP! I JUST GOT TO GIVE IT UP!

GIVE UP GOLF SIR?

NO! - THE MINISTRY!

I'M NOT EATING THAT! I'LL GET SOMETHING DOWN AT THE PUB -

I'LL GET RID OF THAT FLIPPIN' TELLY!

WHEN THEY START HEATING UP THE LEFTOVERS AND CALLING 'EM REPEATS -!

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR HADAD
& TAMARA HADAD
© 1989 World Bridge Federation, Inc.

COUNT, DON'T GUESS

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

WEST

EAST

SOUTH

The bidding:

Opening lead: King of ♠

Legend has it that P. Hadad

never missed a trick.

When partner set up a hand

where the queen of trumps

was missing and gave each

defender the lead, Hadad

was reported to have stated

at the cards for a while before

announcing: "I think both you

have the queen of trumps!"

Those of us not so adept at

guesswork

must find other ways to locate

her.

North's one-club simply created

a game force without saying

anything about diamond control.

Thereafter, it was easy to steer

clear of no trump without a

diamond stopper in favor

of the minor-suit game.

West called two high diamonds

and continued with a third round

of the suit. Obviously, the fate

of the contract hinged on avoiding

the loss of a heart trick. We doubt

even Hadad would have relied on

instinct. He would have searched

mildly's location in a more reliable

fashion.

After ruffing the third diamond,

declarer should draw trumps in

two rounds. Next, the ace and king

of spades are cashed, followed by a

spade ruff. Declarer returns to hand

with a trump to ruff the last spade.

By now, declarer has learned

West started with four spades, six

diamonds and two clubs. A simple

matter of arithmetic confirms that

West cannot have more than one

heart. Thus, declarer can claim his

contract. If a heart to the king does

not fetch the queen, declarer can

take a parried finesse against East

for that card.

THE Daily Crossword by Thomas G. Gahagan

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UAE team warms up

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates national soccer team will play against the Soviet Union, Denmark and Egypt as part of their warm-up matches on the road to the World Cup finals in Italy.

They are also preparing for the Gulf Cup annual tournament starting Feb. 20 in Kuwait.

The Soviet Union and Denmark are expected to field their national sides, but Egypt will field its "Olympic team" in the matches which are to commence Jan. 28.

Each team will play twice with the UAE.

Officials of the UAE Football Association said they were advised by Egypt of the team that was coming but were not certain how many national players, if any, were included.

The Soviets are one of the favorites for the World Cup finals which begins June 9 in Italy.

Egypt and the UAE will be two Arab countries at the finals, soccer's most prestigious event. But Egypt is flying the African flag and the UAE is flying Asia's.

The UAE taking part for the first time in the elite 24-nation World Cup finals, is drawn with West Germany, Yugoslavia and Colombia in Group D of the tournament. Egypt is drawn with England, Ireland and the Netherlands in Group F.

Denmark failed to make it to the World Cup finals but they are one of the classic sides in Europe, having made an impressive impact in the previous World Cup in Mexico.

Egypt has a strong soccer tradition with its clubs regularly entering African Cup finals.

Graf backs decision to expel McEnroe; Becker criticises it

MELBOURNE (Agencies) — Steffi Graf, the world's top woman tennis player, said Tuesday she believed American John McEnroe "lost control" and officials were correct to default him from his Australian Open fourth round match.

After her quarterfinal win over American Patty Fendick, Graf described McEnroe's disqualification Sunday as "a sad thing to happen."

"He is such a great player and I admire him so much for what he's done on the court," the West German said.

"But he lost his temper. He lost control and I think it was probably the right decision for

the umpires to make. "He's so great, he should know not to go over the limit."

Graf joined a number of leading players who believed McEnroe deserved to be defaulted.

Mats Wilander, Stefan Edberg, Mark Woodforde, Aaron Krickstein and David Wheaton on Monday all said McEnroe, who claimed he had misunderstood the rules, was at fault.

Boris Becker came to the defense of John McEnroe saying the misconduct rules are wrong and warning tennis officials against trying to turn players into robots.

"Tennis has to be careful," Becker said at the Australian

Open while McEnroe was flying home to California after being thrown out of the tournament for smashing his racket and cursing.

"Not everybody is like a computer. Tennis is more than just hitting a few balls. It is very good to have a John McEnroe, and I hope we have a couple of more."

"Sure, you can't say what he said to the umpire, but there should be a different penalty than just taking him out of the match."

Becker took some of the attention off the McEnroe affair with a slick escape from two sets down Monday night, a trick reminiscent of his route to the U.S. Open title last fall.

Down a break in the third set to 1989 Australian finalist Miloslav Mecir, Becker stormed back to win 4-6, 6-7 (6-8), 6-4, 6-1, 6-1 and reach the quarterfinals against three-time champion Mats Wilander.

"I was quite astonished I got out of it," Becker said. "It was the third time in recent months that Becker has come back from two sets down — the first time against Derrick Rostagno in the second round of the U.S. Open, the second time against Andre Agassi in Davis Cup play."

"You have to tell yourself not to go down," Becker said. "If I go down, the other guy has to beat me. So it's first a struggle against yourself. That's the first fight you have to win, and then your opponent."

Becker won both fights, turning up the level of his game midway through the second set after one fan called out, "hey, Boris, you want to be number one?" and another fan yelled, "remember Davis Cup in America."

Becker's first serve was off in the opening set, when he seemed distracted by cheering crowds on the rim of the stadium and frustrated by the deft passing shots of the patient Czech, who broke Becker three times.

Becker blew a 4-0 lead in the second-set tiebreaker, double-faulting to 4-4 and losing it on a lunging forehand he hit long.

But after Mecir broke him in the third set for a 3-1 lead, the match suddenly changed. Mecir weakened — missing a short drop shot, double-faulting and getting broken at love after two more errors — and Becker bore down.

Mecir won only three more games the rest of the match as Becker picked up the pace on his groundstrokes, attacked the net more confidently and unleashed eight aces of service winners.

McEnroe's tantrum and departure were the talk of the open most of the day. It wasn't his worst display of court behavior, but it cost him a shot at \$300,000 and put into question his future in tennis.

Motor Sports Committee announces calendar

AMMAN (J.T.) — The recently formed national Motor sports Committee of the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan has completed plans for the events that will make up the national sporting calendar and which will be included in the drivers championships of the Kingdom.

The committee is composed of prominent persons who are connected with all facets of motor sports including current and ex-competitors, organizers and administrators, team managers, car dealers and competition car specialists. The committee for 1990 is composed of the following: His Royal Highness Prince Faisal (chairman), Abdullah Al Khaldi, Hassan Alasoudi, Subell Marar, Ziad Bustami, George Haddad, Haidham Al Marfi, Mohammad Al Saleh and Derek Ledger.

It is the intention of the committee to ensure that all motor sports events held in the Kingdom are tailored to the needs of the competitors, to ensure a continuation of high quality organization and to guarantee fair play and compliance with rules and regulations.

In this context the Motor Sports Committee has unanimously taken disciplinary action by suspending the right to compete for a period of one year of two drivers who have contravened various rules and who were considered to have behaved in an unsportsmanlike manner.

The committee has set the guidelines for the organizing committee to follow for the Jordan International Rally that will now become a two day event scheduled for the 17th and 18th of May. The complete list of motor sports events planned for this year is as follows:

Autotest	Friday, February 23
National Rally	Friday, March 16
Ramman Hill Club	Friday, April 6
Autotest	Friday, May 4
Jordan International Rally	Thu/Fri, May 17-18
National Rally	Friday, June 22
4 Wheel-drive International Rally	Thu/Fri, July 26-27
Ramman Hill Club	Friday, August 17
Autotest	Friday, September 7
National Rally	Friday, October 5
Autotest	Friday, November 23

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The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until, Thursday, March 1, 1990.

Application for documents should be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of JD 150 for each set, of tender documents. The closing date for submission of tenders is 2.00 p.m. local time. March 15, 1990.

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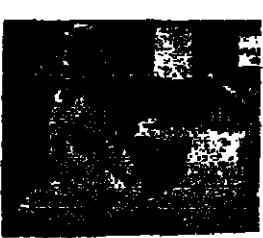
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Cinema CONCORD Tel: 677420

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Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144

MY SISTER
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema NIJOUN Tel: 675571

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped calls the members of the society to attend the General Meeting on Monday Jan. 29, 1990, 11:00 a.m. at the centre, 7th Circle — Abdallah Ghosheh St., behind the Royal Automobile Club, Tel. No. 817598/99 or 817613. New members are mostly welcomed

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Ceausescu aides go on trial Saturday

BUCHAREST (R) — The trial of four top aides of executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu will open in Bucharest Saturday, the Romanian Justice Ministry said Tuesday.

The four — Tudor Postelnicu, Emil Bobu, Ion Dinca and Manca Manescu — were indicted Monday on charges of complicity in genocide.

This relates to their role in the killing of an alleged 60,000 people during the 24-year rule of Ceausescu, who was deposed Dec. 22 and shot by firing squad along with his wife Elena on Christmas Day.

The statement from Justice Minister Teofil Pop, carried by official Bucharest Radio, gave no more details of the trial.

But if convicted, the four could face life imprisonment.

The death penalty was abolished Jan. 1 by a controversial decree of the ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) which angered many Romanians eager for retribution for the years of oppression.

Postelnicu is a former interior minister and security chief, Bobu was chief Communist Party organizer, Dinca was a deputy premier and Ceausescu's right-hand man and Manescu was his first deputy prime minister.

Hundreds of members of the former state apparatus, including leaders of the once-feared Securitate secret police, are expected to be indicted in the coming months, and Saturday's trials will be the first significant opportunity for the new order to reveal publicly the crimes of the old.

The dictator's flamboyant son Nicu and daughter Zoe are also likely to face charges in due course. His elder son Valentin, a less prominent and less unpopular figure, is also under arrest, but his future is unclear.

Vice-President's fears

Romanian Vice-President Dumitru Mazilu Monday accused Securitate secret police loyal to Ceausescu of trying to destroy him and wreck the revolution.

He said agents had infiltrated the month-old interim government, including the Foreign Ministry, and were organizing a smear campaign.

Under Ceausescu the Securitate infiltrated every walk of life and although its armed agents no longer terrorize the streets of Bucharest, many people doubt that all its members have been removed from positions of power.

"These people are doing everything possible to kill us and the revolution," Mazilu said Monday night in his office in the headquarters of the NSF. "I am very worried. The people who are doing this want to destroy our revolution."

Mazilu, number two in the NSF to President Ion Iliescu, has threatened a libel action against Romania's Libera, an influential post-Ceausescu newspaper.

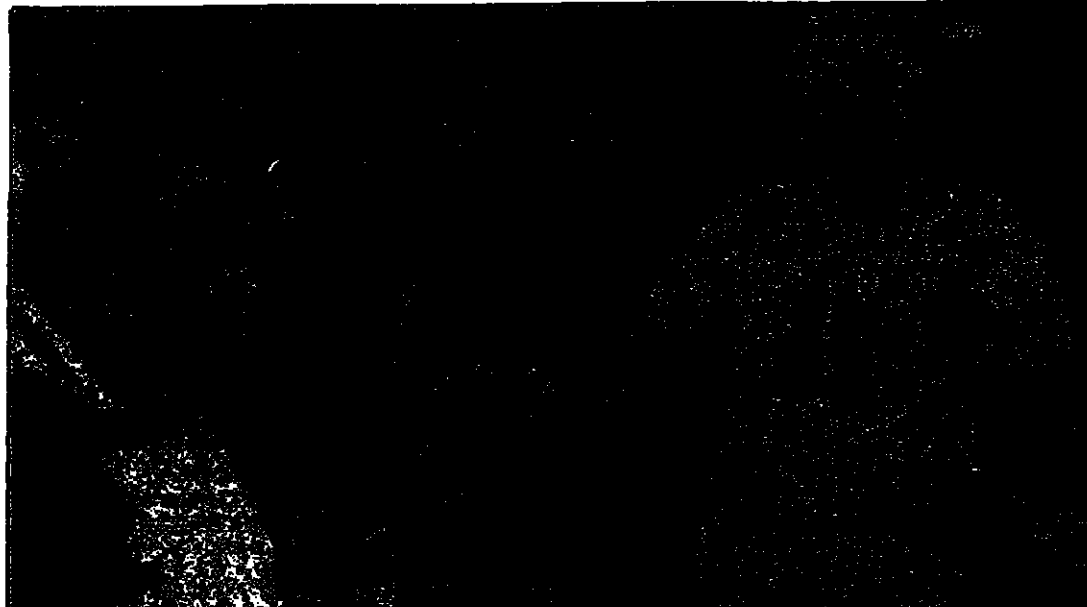
It published two attacks on him 10 days ago, accusing the former United Nations expert of being ex-colonel of the Securitate.

"Ceausescu people in the Foreign Ministry are writing against me in the paper," he said.

"All this comes from Securitate files. Do you think that in the new authority there is no Securitate? This is a crazy situation in Romania."

"Frankly in some ways this period is worse for me than under the dictatorship."

Mazilu said that he was detained May 5, 1986 after writing a draft report for the United Nations condemning human rights abuses under Ceausescu.



TENNIS DIPLOMACY: Soviet reformist tennis match in Tokyo. Yeltsin was on a visit to Japan. Boris Yeltsin (right) chats with Japanese Construction Minister Shozo Harada during a break at their

4 more killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (R) — At least four people were shot dead Tuesday as Indian forces battled rebels in Kashmir's Himalayan valley.

Police said four civilians died in firing during a procession in Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir State where militants are demanding independence or union with neighbouring Pakistan.

It was not immediately clear who had opened fire. Many of the militants are armed.

A curfew imposed Saturday, when the Muslim-majority state

erupted in protest against direct rule from Delhi, was relaxed in parts of Srinagar for four hours Tuesday.

But shops and offices remained shuttered as Kashmiris marched in protest against the killing of more than 40 people in four days of confrontation between Indian security forces and demonstrators.

The state's newly-appointed Governor Jagmohan urged militants to surrender their firearms.

"All right-thinking people in the state are in deep anguish and agony," he said in a statement,

lamenting the deaths of "our brothers and sisters."

Popular support for the militants has wrought havoc for India's new government.

The state government quit last week in protest at Jagmohan's appointment. On Monday night local police went on strike, alleging Indian forces had shot dead one of their colleagues.

On Tuesday Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan ended two days of talks in New Delhi aimed at improving relations. Instead Kashmir dominated the agenda.

Frontline states urge Pretoria to respond positively to ANC

LUSAKA (Agencies) — Leaders of the African frontline nations have called on the white-dominated government in South Africa to clear the way for negotiations with the African National Congress (ANC).

A one-day summit of the heads of the six-nation grouping of black-ruled states neighbouring South Africa Monday demanded an urgent action by President F.W. de Klerk to open talks with the ANC, current frontline president Kenneth Kaunda said.

The Zambian president said the frontline states endorsed the conditions set by the main organisation fighting in South Africa for dialogue on a peace settlement.

"We urge... that President de Klerk does more to respond to the very reasonable position that the ANC has given," Kaunda said in a closing statement.

At the end of a three-day meeting of its 35-member national executive committee in Lusaka

Sunday, the ANC reiterated it would not consider talks until jailed leader Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners were released along with an end to South Africa's state of emergency.

It also demanded a halt to political trials and restrictions on political activities and the withdrawal of troops from South Africa's black townships.

Kaunda told the closing session of Monday's summit "it is now up to de Klerk to create the right type of climate" for talks.

He said the ANC's negotiating stand was widely supported internationally and by the United Nations.

Earlier Monday, Kaunda told summiters a U.N. plan to end racial conflict in South Africa was submitted to the South African government but as yet no response had been received.

The U.N. plan is based on one drawn up by the ANC and adopted last August as the official position on South Africa of the

50-nation Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

It features most of the conditions ratified by the ANC national executive committee Sunday.

Death threats

South African police said Tuesday they were investigating death threats by a right-wing extremist group against de Klerk and the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Authorities were checking two letters sent to the Citizen newspaper in the name of "The White Wolves" threatening to kill de Klerk and Jackson, who is expected to visit South Africa shortly, a police spokesman said.

Police said the investigation was "sensitive" and they could not release any details.

One of the letters was headed "Death Threat — Jesse Jackson," the newspaper reported in its Tuesday edition. It warned the American civil rights leader would be killed if he visited South Africa.

Master of computer 'worm' convicted

SYRACUSE, New York (Agencies) — Robert Tappan Morris was convicted Monday of unleashing a computer "worm" programme that infiltrated a nationwide network used by the U.S. Defence Department in 1988 and froze thousands of computers.

The 24-year-old Morris, who told jurors last week that the programme was experiment gone awry, sat stone-faced as the jury read its verdict following five and a half hours of deliberations. The trial had lasted two weeks.

Morris faces up to five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines for spreading the worm programme into the internet network used by the Defence Department as well as several universities.

Last week Morris, a former Cornell University graduate student, told the jury he had been

experimenting to see if the programme could spread from computer to computer using two computer security holes that he had discovered.

But a programming error caused the programme to duplicate uncontrollably, shutting down about 6,000 computers.

Although defence lawyer Thomas Guidoboni argued that Morris's motives were innocent, noting that he had placed restrictions on the programme to prevent a shutdown of the network, the prosecution claimed that even a good motive, such as intellectual curiosity, was no defence.

Ellen Meltzer, a trial lawyer for the U.S. Justice Department, said Morris deliberately stole computer passwords from hundreds of people so the worm could break into as many computers as possible.

And she said Morris, who had testified that he never intended for the worm programme to cause such harm, took deliberate and conscious steps to make the rogue programme difficult to detect and eradicate.

"This was not a mistake," she said. "Robert Morris worked diligently at creating this worm... at trying to make it better."

But Morris's lawyer, Thomas Guidoboni, contended in his closing arguments that didn't intend to cause, and did not cause, permanent damage to any computer files when he unleashed the worm.

"There was no work lost; work was delayed, that's the bottom line," Guidoboni said.

He said that once Morris realised the worm had gone berserk, he took steps to try to stop it. When that failed, Guidoboni said Morris had friends send out a

Mongolia announces first-ever party polls

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — The Mongolian Communist Party, facing unprecedented popular pressure to reform, has for the first time promised elections for local party posts, the official East German news agency (ADN) said Tuesday.

ADN, reporting from the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, said the party newspaper Ulen had announced town and district elections for the third quarter of 1990.

Up to now Mongolia's Stalinist leadership has not permitted competition for party posts.

"Local party leaders are preparing for any changes that might follow and have been ordered to heed all wishes and suggestions from their members," the ADN report said.

ADN said the politburo of the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party had decided to hold elections before its 20th party congress.

The report was from ADN correspondent Hugo Kroepehn, one of only a handful of foreign journalists based permanently in Mongolia. He speaks Mongol and is considered an authority on the country in his native East Germany.

On Monday the Mongolian Democratic Association, a fledgling reform group demanding an end to the country's 69-year-old communist system, predicted that democracy would take root this year.

Commenting on the group's demands for the first time, a government spokesman told foreign journalists that the ruling Communist Party could "envisage a multi-party system."

Mongolia is a vast land of rolling steppes sandwiched between China and the Soviet Union. Home to just over two million people, it is the world's second oldest Communist country and remains closely allied to the Soviet Union.

But the winds of change that toppled hardline communist rulers among Moscow's Eastern European allies have now reached this remote land.

The Democratic Association has staged four unofficial demonstrations in Ulan Bator since early December. A statue of former Soviet leader Josef Stalin was removed last week from a city street.

"We think we will have a democratic government within this year," Sanjasuren Zorig, leader of the Democratic Association, told journalists Monday. "And this year we think our demands will be settled."

Foreign observers in Ulan Bator said Zorig's movement was the most serious challenge to the communist Party in recent history, but his prediction could prove too ambitious.

They said the party has no mechanism to register an opposition party for national elections. The constitution says the Com-

munist Party must dominate the government.

Zorig said his group has some 60,000 members, workers disaffected with low wages, sluggish political and economic reforms and their country's distorted official history.

The Communists, he said, have falsified accounts of the deeds of Genghis Khan, the ruthless Mongol chieftain whose hordes conquered the world's biggest land empire in the 13th century.

"For us, Genghis Khan was an outstanding man," Zorig said, promising to rehabilitate Genghis if his association wins power.

Government spokesman Terbish Chimeddorj, speaking to foreign journalists, also mentioned the "Great Khan", saying the government was reappraising its officially negative reputation.

Genghis was both good and bad, he said. Good because he united warring Mongol tribes and founded the nation, but bad because he destroyed many cultural monuments and killed many people," Chimeddorj said.

Chimeddorj, head of cultural exchange and information at the Foreign Ministry, said his government was accelerating political and economic reforms.

He said the reforms were inspired mainly by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, but the democracy movement had also exerted some pressure. "I cannot say it (the democracy movement) has had no effect," he said.

Yugoslav Communists postpone congress

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia's Communist Party postponed indefinitely Tuesday a party congress after Slovene delegates walked out in a move that could sound the party's death knell.

The walkout followed the party's reunification Monday its constitutionally guaranteed leading role in society and its decision to allow a multi-party system.

"(The party) proposes to the Yugoslav parliament that it pass a law on political pluralism including a multi-party system," said Momir Bulatovic, communist leader in Montenegro who chaired a session at the congress.

But Ciril Ribicki, Communist Party chief of Slovenia, said the party had failed to reform itself and remained internally undemocratic.

Slovenian delegates walked out after being outvoted on the republic's demand to transform the party into eight autonomous regional organisations.

"(Slovenia) was outvoted at the congress on such key issues as a pro-European orientation, human rights and freedoms... even the basic character of Yugoslavia's federal structure," he said.

The Croatian and Macedonian delegations also threatened to leave.

Yugoslav Communist Party chief Milan Pancevski told the remaining delegates the congress would be postponed until further notice while branches in the eight republics and provinces held emergency meetings.

"Yugoslav communists, even during the hardest periods of the

party's history have found the strength to overcome their difficulties," Pancevski said.

Prime Minister Ante Markovic told reporters after the walkout: "Yugoslavia will function with or without the League of Communists."

"We tried repeatedly to change the course of this congress," said Peter Bekes, an executive secretary of Slovenian party politburo, told reporters. "We hoped the League of Communists would transform itself into a social democratic party."

Communist Party leaders in Slovenia were the first to allow opposition parties and, together with Croatia, pledged to hold free multi-party elections next spring.

They are opposed by Serbia, the biggest republic, which advocates a centralised Communist Party, based on democratic centralism, by which majority decisions are binding for all.

Svetozar Marovic, of the Montenegrin delegation, said: "The departure of the delegates from Slovenia means the end of an authoritarian party which ensured its survival through administrative measures."

Asked whether the dissolution of the Yugoslav party meant the end of the Yugoslav federation, former Slovenian party chief Milan Kucan said: "The unity of Yugoslavia does not depend on the League of Communists."

But former Yugoslav president Rado Dizdarevic said, "not only the League of Communists is at stake, but the survival of Yugoslavia itself."

Noriega has French castle, Swedish estate

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — U.S. investigators have uncovered evidence suggesting that deposed Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega amassed up to \$300 million, including properties in France and Sweden, during his eight years in power, according to Los Angeles Times.

Among hundreds of bank accounts and pieces of property believed linked to Noriega is a \$27 million castle in the south of France held in the name of Noriega's mistress, 35-year-old Vicky Amador, the newspaper said in a report from Panama City quoting unidentified Panamanian officials and U.S. sources.

Investigators have also found solid evidence of a Noriega connection to a vast range of holdings throughout Latin America, the United States and Europe, including a sprawling estate in Sweden, the newspaper said.

The properties in France and Sweden were not identified.

The newspaper quoted unidentified sources as saying the United States believes Noriega acquired part of his money through a scheme in which Panamanian visas were sold for up to \$1,000 to Cuban and Chinese desperate to leave their countries.

Other suspected sources of wealth included Noriega's stewardship of the Panamanian customs and tax systems, both of which demanded exorbitant bribes as a cost of doing business, the newspaper said.

Noriega, now held in custody in Miami awaiting trial on drug trafficking charges, was ousted after U.S. troops invaded Panama Dec. 20 and installed the government of President Guillermo Endara.

U.S. concedes 'mistake'

The U.S. military has withdrawn statements that it had found drugs in a building linked to Noriega and spotted cocaine processing plants in the jungle bordering Costa Rica.

U.S. forces have confiscated 415 kilograms of cocaine since the Dec. 20 invasion to oust Noriega, they said, not including nearly 300 kilograms found in the evidence room of the anti-narcotics police.

U.S. officials qualified as "a mistake" the reports that either 20 kilograms or 50 kilograms of cocaine were found in a building at Fort Amador, a coastal town named "witch house," because of the articles of witchcraft found inside.

The report was cited by some U.S. officials as proof that Noriega was involved with drugs.

But a list released Monday by the U.S. Southern Command showed that no drugs were found in the "witch house," and only small "user amounts" of drugs, which could not be linked to Noriega, were found in Noriega's command headquarters and a Panamanian office at Fort Amador.

Column

A taste of Middle Ages

LYNDHURST, New Jersey (AP) — Diners looking for an out-of-the-ordinary eating experience will find knights on horseback and trumpeting footmen — but no silverware — at a soon-to-open restaurant. The restaurant, Medieval Times, is a replica of an 11th-century European fortress. It is scheduled to open in mid-February, and belongs to a restaurant company of the same name that offers patrons a taste of the Middle Ages. Visitors will see jousting matches, sword fights, tournament games and other pageantry when they take their seats in the 7,400-square-metre facility. Trumpeters herald visitors into the arena, which seats about 1,200. While "serfs" and "watches" in period costumes offer guests soup, chicken, spare ribs, potatoes and the "king's brew," eight performers on horseback weave around the sandy carousel floor. The company has had trouble finding employees with the requisite skills, so it has taken out newspaper ads that read, "looking for athletic persons to assist knights in performances and to train in the arts of horsemanship, jousting, weaponry and swordfighting. Possible advancement to knighthood."

Moose courts cows

WESTHAMPTON, Massachusetts (AP) — The antics of a lone moose who has been trying to court the attentions of dairy cows may be amusing to onlookers, but a farmer has had enough of the confused creature. During the weeks, he has been circulating around the area of western Massachusetts, the moose has become a minor celebrity, drawing regular visitors to a farm Frank Montague runs for his son, Peter. "They're all over the place," he said of the onlookers. "The first day there were a half dozen cars." Three years ago more than 75,000 people visited a Shrewsbury, Vermont, farm where a 318-kilogram moose — a large deer-like animal with huge antlers — spent 75 days wooing a Hereford cow named Jessica. A song called "Lovesick Moose" was written about the two.

No more walking tall

LONDON (R) — Police in London no longer have to walk tall. In a drive to recruit officers from ethnic minorities, Scotland Yard headquarters said it was scrapping height requirements for the blue-helmeted London bobby. Senior officers said many Asians were being kept off the force by rules requiring male recruits to top 170 centimetres and women to be at least 160 centimetres tall. Only 520 of the 28,000 London metropolitan police are non-white, a statistic that has drawn criticism from urban community groups and politicians. In an effort to attract more women firefighters, the London fire brigade has already stopped measuring recruits' chests, once a test for lung capacity in coping with smoke hazards.

Oval office gets facelift

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House announced Monday that the president's Oval Office, the centre of U.S. power and influence, had undergone a facelift at a cost of more than \$62,000. It said the redecoration, financed by contributions to the White House Historical Association, included installation of a new rug, new draperies, a new coffee table and reupholstered arm chairs. The grey-blue rug, which has the presidential seal woven into its centre, was designed by a firm in President George Bush's adopted hometown of Houston, Texas.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	°C	°F	WIND
AMSTERDAM	05	48	10	Rain
ATLANTA	08	41	10	Rain
BAHRAIN	12	54	16	Cloudy
BANGKOK	22	72	39	Cloudy
BUEENOS AIRES	20	68	29	Cloudy
Cairo	10	50	18	Clear
CHICAGO	09	32	08	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	06	43	09	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	04	39	05	Clear
GENOVA	09	42	13	Cloudy
HONG KONG	10	50	12	Clear
ISTANBUL	02	36	09	Cloudy
JOHANNESBURG	09	52	13	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	10	50	12	Clear
MADRID	09	50	12	Clear
MECCA	20	68	31	Clear
MONTREAL	12	10	50	Cloudy
MOSCOW	15	05	41	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	12	54	29	Clear
NEW YORK	04	34	09	Cloudy
PARIS	07	45	13	Cloudy
ROME	04	39	10	Clear
TOKYO	16	62	27	Clear
VIENNA	07	35	12	Cloudy

Diplomats expect more boat people

By Chris Peterson
Reuters

HONG KONG — Several thousand Vietnamese boat people will try to head for Hong Kong when the sailing season resumes in March, regardless of what happens at an international conference in Geneva this week, diplomats believe.

Last year over 34,000 Vietnamese landed in Hong Kong, swelling the population in the camps here to nearly 56,000 and forcing the British colony to start a controversial forced repatriation programme.

"Despite the appalling conditions in the camps, and despite forced repatriation, I still expect several thousand to try it," said one Western diplomat.

"The fundamental problem hasn't gone away — Vietnam's northern provinces are in a miserable state, from an economic viewpoint."

So far this year 147 boat people have arrived, but Hong

Kong officials say the crunch will come in late March, when weather conditions in the South China Sea moderate with the start of the so-called sailing season.

International refugee workers say there is evidence the message that there is no future for boat people in Hong Kong's camps is getting through, but they still expect a hard core to make the trip.

"Letters home from camp residents, broadcast made by the Hong Kong authorities and efforts by the Vietnamese government have had an effect, there's no doubt of that," said a refugee aid worker.

"But in the poor northern provinces like Quang Ninh a combination of dire financial straits, corrupt local officials and a widespread rumour mill means some will come, although not as many as last year."

The aid worker said the message had got through in more

sophisticated areas of Vietnam, and pointed out that a higher proportion of arrivals than before were now coming from the north.

"You are getting fewer and fewer southerners, probably because of the agreement by which Hanoi is now allowing former officials and officers from the old South Vietnamese regime to go to the United States in large numbers," the worker added.

An international conference on the problem starts in Geneva this week, where officials from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United States, Vietnam, first asylum countries and resettlement countries will meet.

Last June a similar meeting adopted a comprehensive plan of action, which adopted screening for new arrivals, faster resettlement for genuine refugees, and support for the UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme.

First asylum countries are those states in South-East Asia that agreed under a 1979 U.N. convention to house boat people pending resettlement elsewhere.

Hong Kong and Britain, desperate to send a strong signal to deter would-be boat people from coming, struck a deal with Vietnam on the forced return of those screened out in the British colony as illegal immigrants.

On Dec. 12, Hong Kong sent 51 Vietnamese men, women and children back to Hanoi aboard a chartered airliner in the first mandatory return of boat people.

The move brought widespread condemnation, particularly from the United States, and diplomats say Vietnam has now balked at accepting any more forced repatriation flights.

Diplomats in Hong Kong said that although Washington still opposes forced repatriation, a deal could be struck in

Geneva whereby Britain agrees to put the programme on hold to allow the UNHCR's voluntary return project more time.

The first flight of volunteers returned to Hanoi last March, and diplomats say Vietnam has stuck to its promise that they would not be mistreated or persecuted on their return.

The programme, which was slow to start, is now running at two flights a month. More than 1,000 have returned voluntarily, and nearly 1,500 are waiting to have their papers processed. Sergio Vieira de Mello, head of the UNHCR's regional bureau covering Asia, told Hong Kong Radio Tuesday that it was vital that the Geneva meeting reached agreement.

"If we do not solve this problem sensibly, then the comprehensive plan of action is in danger. Abandonment of first asylum could be one of the consequences," he said in Geneva.